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CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. X, No. 52

January 30, 1932

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Birth Registration Is a Necessity

A woman residing in Santa Barbara County recently made frantic appeal to the county health officer, Dr. R. C. Main, for aid in proving that a certain child was her own. It was learned that the physician who had attended at the birth of the child was still living and remembered the event. The necessary legal forms for establishing fact of birth were obtained and with the aid of an attorney the woman presented her petition to the Superior Court of the county. She was able to convince the court that she was the parent of the child and the fact of its birth was established by the court. All of this involved much trouble and expense which might have been prevented if the birth certificate had been filed at the time of birth, as is required by law.

An event of this sort is of too common occurrence. Courts are continually receiving petitions to establish fact of birth for individuals whose birth certificates were never filed. Health officers and local registrars of vital statistics would do well to conduct active campaigns in their communities for securing more efficient registration of births. Birth certificates at the present time are of value in procedures connected with the inheritance of property, in settlement of insurance, pensions and claims of widows and orphans. They are often required for entrance to school and to military service. They are useful in establishing a right to vote, to marry, to drive an automobile, for employment in industries, and in certain criminal proceedings. They are essential for

securing allowance on income tax. They are necessary to prove citizenship, for securing passports, for exemption from military service in foreign countries, for use in criminal courts in foreign countries, and for reentrance into the United States. In order to hold certain offices and to secure admission to certain professions, birth certificates are required. The government requires birth certificates in order that the families of disabled veterans may secure compensation. Parents should always insist that birth certificates for their children be filed at time of birth. The law requires physicians to file such certificates and no attendant upon a confinement has completed his duty until this important legal document has been filed.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING IN RURAL SCHOOLS

The American Red Cross has printed a revision of "Rural School Nursing." The publication is intended for Red Cross public health nurses but is available to all nurses at a nominal price. The 11 chapters of the book deal with organization, relationship of the nursing service, planning of school nursing program, school, home and office visits of the nurse, elimination of handicaps, the finding and correction of defects, control of communicable diseases, improvement of the child's environment, health education, the preschool child, and the school nursing program.

AN OUTBREAK OF TRICHINOSIS

A rancher in Marin County, on December 17th, slaughtered a 600-pound hog. Three days later the carcass was cut up—about 60 pounds of the meat made into salami, about 180 pounds converted into sausages and about 250 pounds packed in dry salt. At that time many friends of the rancher's family were present and partook of the sausages. As a result, at least seven of these individuals suffered from trichinosis; two of them died, January 15th and January 19th, respectively; and at this writing two individuals are seriously ill. Acting upon instructions of the Director of the State Department of Public Health, Dr. J. H. Kuser, County Health Officer, placed a quarantine upon all hogs, pork and pork products found upon the premises. These were later completely destroyed by burning.

A careful survey of the premises was made by the Bureau of Sanitary Inspection of the State Department of Public Health and rats collected for examination showed a heavy infestation of *trichina spiralis*. It was required that laboratory examinations be made of tissue from the carcass of all other hogs that might be slaughtered and that all carcasses showing trichina infection should be condemned and destroyed immediately. It was required, further, that all carcasses be handled in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry covering the inspection and processing of hog meat, in order to guard against trichinosis infection in human beings. Under these regulations it is required that carcasses be held in a refrigerator for a period of 21 days at a freezing temperature of 5 degrees Fahrenheit or less; or, that the carcasses, after being cut up, be processed as follows: the parts placed in dry salt, 3½ pounds to each 100 pounds of meat, and held for 21 days at a minimum temperature of 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

Following the extensive trapping of rats by the State sanitary inspectors the premises were heavily poisoned and in the future poisoning operations will be carried on at frequent intervals. The premises were placed in a very clean condition and it is believed that no further cases of trichinosis can develop from this source.

In general, longevity depends upon hereditary factors quite as truly as, and perhaps in no less degree than, on hygienic factors. Both kinds of factors are important. The best results follow when a hygienic mode of life is added to an excellent hereditary constitution.—Dr. C. B. Davenport, Director, Eugenics Record Office of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

PALO ALTO MAKES NEW HEALTH RECORDS

The health department of the city of Palo Alto has made many outstanding records in public health and stands an excellent chance of capturing first honors among United States cities having populations under 20,000 which are enrolled in the Inter-Chamber Health Conservation Contest sponsored by the United States Chamber of Commerce. The awards will be based upon health records for the calendar year of 1931. Palo Alto has already received honors in previous contests of this sort and has an excellent opportunity of securing the first award in the 1931 contest, which is about to close.

There are 96 cities in the same classification of population which are entered in the contest, which is based upon the complete health activities of the competing communities, both public and private. These activities embrace such subjects as water supplies, sewage disposal, milk supply, control measures in the communicable diseases, community interest, public health education, and financial support of public health work.

There were but three infant deaths in Palo Alto in 1931, which gives the city a phenomenal infant mortality rate of 14.8. There were 136 deaths reported in Palo Alto last year, which gives the city a crude death rate of 9.4, which is considerably lower than the death rate for the State.

OAKLAND MAKES HEALTH CENSUS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

In an effort to extend the program of immunization against communicable diseases, Dr. A. H. Hieronymous, City Health Officer of Oakland, has undertaken a health survey of pupils in attendance upon the public schools of the city. Cards are issued to parents and guardians of school children, upon which vital information relative to the medical history of the pupil is asked. Every pupil in the public schools, from the kindergarten to the high school, is included in the survey. Complete histories, relative to the communicable diseases from which the child may have suffered, are asked for, as well as histories of immunization procedures. Dr. Hieronymous has secured the services of a statistician who will compile a report of the census which will constitute an important factor in the inauguration of a complete survey for the immunization of all school children against both diphtheria and smallpox.

The little good I have done is that which has cost me the greatest trouble and has encountered the most numerous obstacles.—William Hunter, M.D.

GORGAS ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The fourth annual health essay contest for high school juniors and seniors, sponsored by the Gorgas Memorial Institute, Washington, D. C., will open in high schools on February 8th, and close on March 15th. The subject of the contest is "Mosquitoes; Their Danger as a Menace to Health, and the Importance of Their Control."

High school winners will receive a handsome Gorgas medal, and will qualify for entrance in the state contest. State winners will be awarded \$10 in cash, and will qualify for entrance in the national contest. Winner of first national prize will receive \$500 in cash, and a travel allowance of \$200 to Washington to receive the award; second national prize will be \$150 in cash, and the third national prize \$50 in cash.

Winner in each high school will be selected by a faculty committee appointed by the principal. The winning essay, with official entrance blank and photograph of winner will be forwarded by the principal to the Gorgas Memorial for entry in the state contest. A committee of three state officials will judge the winning high school papers and select the winner in each state. The winning state essays will then be entered in the national contest, the judges of which will be the U. S. Commissioner of Education, the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, and the Director General of the American College of Surgeons.

Twelve thousand students in 43 states participated in last year's Gorgas essay contest. The winner was Miss Helen Dale, San Diego, California. For detailed announcement write the Gorgas Memorial Institute, 1331 G Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS ISSUE PUBLICATIONS

Monthly bulletins in mimeographed form are now issued by the San Bernardino County Health Unit, of which Dr. E. B. Godfrey is the director; the Fresno County Public Health Department, of which Dr. James E. Pendergrass is health officer; and the Alameda City Health Department, of which Dr. Ralph W. Sanders is health officer. These bulletins are chiefly interesting for the statistical information relative to local health conditions but the Fresno County bulletin for January carries a most interesting history of the health organization of Fresno County. The history of public health in this county constitutes a long record of activity and the story of the development of the county health department provides interesting reading.

THE PSITTACOSIS SITUATION

Several additional suspected cases of psittacosis have occurred in California during the past two weeks. Cases that have been definitely determined as those of psittacosis now total 11, of which number six have resulted fatally. Health officers are requested to report promptly any cases that may be suspicious of this disease in order that investigations may be made promptly.

Following reports that cases of psittacosis have occurred in New York through contact with birds shipped from San Francisco, the health officer of San Francisco, Dr. J. C. Geiger, placed a quarantine upon all places in San Francisco where birds are sold, prohibiting their sale. The Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service extended the original federal quarantine order so as to include an embargo upon both parakeets and love birds. At the present time all parrots, parakeets, love birds and certain other species of birds must be held in quarantine for a period of 15 days before they are permitted to land. It would seem, at the present time, that birds infected with psittacosis may be imported from the Orient. Heretofore, it has been believed that birds infected with psittacosis came only from South America and African countries. An investigation now being undertaken by the United States Public Health Service will undoubtedly reveal many interesting and important factors in psittacosis as it occurs in the United States.

A massive dose of tubercle bacilli, gaining entrance to the body of a child under one year of age, will cause death in nearly every instance. Without an infection, the child would not need, nor would it develop a specific power to destroy the tubercle bacillus.—*F. M. Pottenger.*

MORBIDITY*

Diphtheria.

79 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Fresno 2, Los Angeles County 11, Beverly Hills 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 37, San Fernando 2, Whittier 1, Torrance 3, South Gate 1, Madera County 1, Orange County 1, Orange 1, Riverside 4, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 3, Vallejo 1.

Scarlet Fever.

149 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 2, Hayward 1, Oakland 5, Butte County 1, Contra Costa County 1, Del Norte County 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 3, Sanger 1, Glenn County 2, Orland 1, Lassen County 5, Los Angeles County 12, Alhambra 1, Compton 6, Covina 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Beach 1, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 41, Pasadena 2, South Pasadena 1, South Gate 1, Maywood 1, Bell 1, Madera 1, Merced County 4, Los Banos 2, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 5, Sacramento 2, San Diego County 2, San Diego 2, San Francisco 8,

* From reports received on January 25th and 26th for week ending January 23d.

Santa Barbara County 4, San Jose 2, Santa Cruz 1, Watsonville 1, Redding 1, Stanislaus County 1, Sutter County 3, Yuba City 4, Tulare County 1, Yolo County 1, Yuba County 1.

Measles.

252 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 3, Berkeley 2, Oakland 2, Chico 1, Martinez 2, Richmond 5, Crescent City 1, Humboldt County 29, Los Angeles County 3, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 4, South Gate 1, Bell 1, Monterey County 2, Carmel 2, Monterey 2, Pacific Grove 1, Salinas 14, Anaheim 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 93, San Francisco 40, Lodi 13, San Luis Obispo 1, Redwood City 3, Santa Barbara County 1, Lompoc 4, San Jose 3, Santa Cruz County 4, Santa Cruz 3, Watsonville 2, Fairfield 2, Stanislaus County 3, Turlock 1, Woodland 1.

Smallpox.

21 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Fresno 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles 6, Riverside 1, San Francisco 5, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 1, Yuba City 1, Tulare County 4.

Typhoid Fever.

5 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Kings County 1, San Francisco 2, Santa Clara County 1, Sonoma County 1.

Whooping Cough.

112 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda 4, Berkeley 1, Oakland 10, Fresno County 4, Los Angeles County 6, Arcadia 1, Azusa 4, Los Angeles 15, Monrovia 1, Montebello 4, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, Merced County 2, Los Banos 4, Orange County 3, Santa Ana 2, San Bernardino County 1, Chula Vista 1, La Mesa 1, National City 3,

San Diego 14, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 11, San Luis Obispo County 3, Paso Robles 6, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Maria 3, Palo Alto 1, Sonora 2.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

5 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1.

Poliomyelitis.

2 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: San Luis Obispo County 1, San Mateo County 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

1 case of epidemic encephalitis from San Bernardino County was reported.

Food Poisoning.

4 cases of food poisoning from Los Angeles were reported.

Undulant Fever.

2 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: South Gate 1, Orange County 1.

Septic Sore Throat.

5 cases of septic sore throat have been reported, as follows: Glendale 1, San Gabriel 1, Tujunga 2, San Diego 1.

Trichinosis.

1 case of trichinosis from Marin County was reported.

Psittacosis.

1 case of psittacosis from Woodland was reported.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1932				1931			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Jan. 23 received by Jan. 26	Week ending			Reports for week ending Jan. 24 received by Jan. 27
	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Jan. 16		Jan. 3	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	
Actinomycosis.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox.....	369	790	562	528	313	546	524	535
Coccidioidal Granuloma.....	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Diphtheria.....	65	88	92	79	65	67	72	62
Dysentery (Amoebic).....	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	1
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	2	4	2	8	2	3	2	2
Encephalitis (Epidemic).....	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2
Erysipelas.....	15	18	36	13	22	19	32	27
Food Poisoning.....	2	5	4	4	5	0	0	0
German Measles.....	3	7	9	9	8	15	10	8
Gonococcus Infection.....	125	127	130	174	162	145	157	154
Hookworm.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Influenza.....	162	125	176	235	55	96	63	93
Leprosy.....	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
Malaria.....	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0
Measles.....	186	221	273	252	212	315	411	546
Meningitis (Epidemic).....	6	7	3	5	16	9	9	6
Mumps.....	88	162	155	145	149	248	308	263
Paratyphoid Fever.....	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	0
Pellagra.....	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Pneumonia (Lobar).....	131	122	115	84	193	113	110	77
Poliomyelitis.....	5	3	3	2	14	8	11	7
Psittacosis.....	8	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rabies (Animal).....	6	11	7	8	37	19	14	20
Scarlet Fever.....	127	153	172	149	94	106	145	142
Septic Sore Throat.....	1	1	0	5	0	3	1	0
Smallpox.....	9	19	11	21	81	68	163	82
Syphilis.....	159	173	190	196	117	169	174	163
Tetanus.....	1	2	1	0	2	0	1	0
Trachoma.....	1	2	1	2	5	1	0	0
Trichinosis.....	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	2
Tuberculosis.....	135	262	229	135	185	261	171	180
Tularemia.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Typhoid Fever.....	3	4	2	5	15	9	8	6
Undulant Fever.....	0	1	3	2	2	4	1	1
Whooping Cough.....	69	146	154	112	78	155	173	188
Totals.....	1,678	2,464	2,336	2,179	1,836	2,390	2,566	2,570

Diphtheria continues as more prevalent than during the same season of last year.

Influenza shows an increase for last week.

Smallpox rose slightly last week.

Comparatively few cases of animal rabies are reported.

Chickenpox shows extensive prevalence.